

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**October 17, 2002**  
**2:00PM**  
**Room 433, Blatt Building**

**Members Present:** Mr. Staton, Mrs. Young Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Ms. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Representative Walker and Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and others to the meeting.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of September 19 were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

- A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Dr. Gummerson reviewed the report on the Algebra I end-of-course assessment. He indicated that there were concerns about the optional use of calculators, inclusion in the annual school and district ratings, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade testing. On behalf of the Subcommittee, he recommended that the committee take the recommendations from the Internal and External Review committees "that the Algebra I and Mathematics for Technologies II tests be approved for use this year." Mr. Walker suggested that the recommendations should require calculators be available to all students for the assessment and noted that the use of calculators is in the standards. The cost of calculators statewide is approximately \$2 million. Senator Giese raised questions about the performance of students enrolled in Mathematics for the Technologies courses. Mr. Walker moved to amend the recommendation to provide that "no later than fall 2003, calculators should be required for student use in the administration of the Algebra I/Mathematics for the Technologies II End of Course Test and that it is strongly encouraged that calculators be used if available for the administration of the test during the 2002-2003 school year." Senator Fair asked how the option use in this first year would affect school ratings. Dr. Anderson explained that tests are not included in the rating until the third administration. Mr. Walker reiterated his concerns about double-testing of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the manner in which the end-of-course assessment is to be included in the rating, and inclusion of information about passage of high school credit courses in middle school on the high school report card. The amendment to Dr. Gummerson's motion passed. The motion to approve the test, as amended, passed.
- B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel reported that the Subcommittee was beginning its budget work on October 24.
- C. **Parental Involvement:** No report
- D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Lightsey reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee had approved the teacher survey and the billboards project. Workshops with media personnel had been successful and should be continued in future years.

- E. Administration: Mr. Staton presented a menu of initiatives for discussion. The menu was developed in response to Objective 1 to ensure that there is a highly qualified teacher in every classroom and administrator in every school. The members of the EOC reviewed each item, asked questions and offered suggestions for refinement. The members discussed the utilization of local effort in the designation of school districts for various options. There was considerable discussion about the methodology for calculation, the need to address the hard questions about opportunity, and recognition of low taxpaying ability districts. Mrs. Cooper asked that Pro-Teen be added to the Teacher Cadet recommendation. Mrs. Marlowe suggested that more funds are needed in the performance contracts pilot. Mrs. Marlowe asked about support for para professionals and instructional assistants so that they could become certified. Mrs. Spearman reminded members of the SC State University program managed by Dr. Cheeseboro. These and other comments are to be discussed as the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee develops budget recommendations.

Dr. Anderson reviewed data on students scoring at the proficient level. Sen. Giese discussed the continuing achievement gap between white and African-American students and urged immediate action. Senator Matthews stated that we must continue to disaggregate the data and not shy away from the challenges.

IV. **Report on the Retraining Grants**

Dr. Horne reported on the annual evaluation of retraining grants. The report, which goes to the State Board of Education, included recommendations to exclude schools that over a period of years have provided no effectiveness data from future funding. Members discussed if this was a fair recommendation.

V. **Report from a Key Constituency**

Dr. Tom Parks and Mr. Jeff David, Clemson University, presented program data on the "Call Me Mister" program. Three program participants spoke to the EOC, outlining their desire to teach and the importance of the program in their professional preparation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.